



# Economic Efficiency and Incentives for Change within Namibia’s Community Wildlife Use Initiatives

JONATHAN I. BARNES, JAMES MACGREGOR  
*Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Windhoek, Namibia*

and

L. CHRIS WEAVER \*

*World Wildlife Fund (US) Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) Program, Windhoek, Namibia*

**Summary.** — Five community wildlife conservation and utilization initiatives, or conservancies, on communal land in Namibia were appraised to determine economic and financial worth. Conservancies are economically efficient and able to contribute positively to national income and the development process. They also provide a channel for the capture of international donor grants (wildlife non-use values) as income, and generate attractive financial returns for communities. Donor grants are very important catalysts in promoting land use change in conservancies. Ability to generate income from tourism is important. Flexibility and adaptability in design are key factors, ensuring effective rural development and conservation. © 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

*Key words* — Africa, Namibia, community, wildlife, economics, incentives

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, five community wildlife conservation and utilization initiatives, on communal land in Namibia, have been analyzed to determine their financial profitability, and their economic efficiency. The degree to which these community projects can contribute positively to the national income, and thereby to the economic development process, is central to the study. Also investigated was the degree to which the initiatives provide private returns to project investment, as well as to investments made by communities.

Namibia has adopted policy and legislation to allow community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) <sup>1</sup> on communal land. Much of the initial focus of CBNRM has been on wildlife, which is threatened with displacement by growing rural human populations and illegal use. The approach devolves rights over wildlife to local communities and aims to make wildlife conservation part of the rural development process. In this context, CBNRM ini-

tiatives must be financially attractive for the community, economically efficient for the

\*Work on this paper has been supported through funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the World Wildlife Fund (US) LIFE Program, under terms of Agreement no. 623-02510A-00-3135-00, the Overseas Development Institute, the British Department of International Development (DFID), the Swedish Government (Sida) and the Namibian Government. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of any of these organizations. We sincerely thank all the many individuals who assisted with data collection, data analysis, interpretation and comments. Of particular help were Helen Suich, Michael Humavindu, David Callihan, Dhyani Berger, Karl Aribeb, Patricia Skyer, Anna Davis, Garth Owen-Smith, Margaret Jacobsohn, Colin Nott, Brian Jones, Ruud Klep, Benny Roman, Caroline Ashley, Richard Diggle, Jo Tagg, Simon Mayes, Chris Brown, Peter Tarr, Teofilus Nghitila, Brian Child and Klemens /Awarab. Responsibility for all mistakes is ours. Final revision accepted: 3 December 2001.

country, and reasonably financially viable for donors and the government. Without these incentives, they will not be sustainable, and will not result in development or conservation.

(a) *The setting*

Namibia is a large country (830,000 km<sup>2</sup>) straddling the Tropic of Capricorn on the west coast of southern Africa. It is very dry, and climate ranges from semi arid in the northeast to extremely arid on the west coast. Vegetation ranges from savanna woodland in the northeast, through savanna to desert in the west and south. Rain-fed crop production is limited to very small parts of the north and northeast. Most land in the country is only suitable for extensive grazing by livestock or wildlife, and rangeland carrying capacities are low. Permanent surface water is restricted to a few rivers on the northern, north eastern and southern borders.

The human population of the country, at 1.7 million, is small, with 30% living in urban centers. The rural economy has two different tenure systems. Forty-three percent of the country, mostly in the drier parts, contains private, medium scale, commercial ranches. Forty-five percent, mostly in the less dry north, is communal land. Communal land is state-owned, but occupied by rural tribal communities—most of the country's population. Communities practice traditional systems of pastoralism in the south and west, and agropastoralism in the north and northeast, but their access to markets and infrastructure is poor. In the northeast, among San communities, some sedentary hunting and gathering is practiced.

Wildlife resources of high importance for tourism occur in less densely settled north western and north eastern communal lands. Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), sable (*Hippotragus niger*), roan (*Hippotragus equinus*), lechwe (*Kobus lechwe*), sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*), lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and wild dog (*Lycyaon pictus*) are of conservation importance in the northeast. In the northwest, desert-adapted wildlife species such as elephant, black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), mountain zebra (*Equus zebra*), springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*), kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiseros*), and oryx (*Oryx gazella*) occur. Attractive scenery, enhancing tourism value, exists in both places.

Communities were historically not permitted to use these wildlife resources, and were effectively alienated from them. The tendency was for expanding traditional land uses to displace wildlife, and poaching was fairly common. In the 1980s, local nongovernment organizations (NGOs) initiated donor-funded community game guard programs, giving some communities a sense of "ownership" over their wildlife.

(b) *CBNRM in Namibia*

In the late 1960s, Namibia granted *private* landholders custodial rights to manage and use wildlife on their land (Joubert, 1974). The incentives associated with this have resulted in increased wildlife stocks on this land (Barnes & de Jager, 1996). In 1996, a legislative amendment granted similar custodial rights over wildlife to communities on communal land (Corbett & Jones, 2000; Jones, 1995; Jones & Murphree, 2001). This change, part of a national CBNRM program, made it possible for communities to form "*conservancies*," register these, and thus acquire, from the state, partial rights to common property management and use of wildlife in defined areas. By 2001, 14 conservancies had been registered, and some 20 more were in the process of being developed. About five conservancies had drawn up plans for the use and management of their natural resources, mainly wildlife.

The CBNRM program is loosely coordinated from within government and local NGOs, by the Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO). Communities are assisted by the local NGOs, donor-funded projects, and a government-backed policy and legislative framework. Funding for this assistance comes mainly from international donors. It takes the form of grants to pay for technical assistance, local NGO facilitation and training activities, and some conservancy recurrent and capital requirements. Since the 1980s communities interested in CBNRM have benefited to varying degrees from donor funds, initially, mainly to employ community members in wildlife protection (community game guards), but also to provide facilitation and training, as well as, lately, capital investments. One aim of CBNRM is for donor inputs to conservancies to be gradually replaced by income from natural resource use, leaving communities self-sufficient. To some extent this has happened, but so far no conservancies are entirely self-

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

**ISI**Articles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات